

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 163 - SB 535

April 17, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (007420): Establishes that if a parent or guardian fails to visit or support a child under the age of four for a period of three consecutive months preceding a proceeding to terminate parental rights, or preceding incarceration, it will constitute as abandonment and make the child available for adoption.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 36-1-102 currently states that if a parent or guardian fails to visit or support a child of any age for a period of four consecutive months preceding a proceeding to terminate parental rights, or preceding incarceration, it will constitute as abandonment. The proposed legislation changes this threshold to three consecutive months for children under the age of four.
- Altering the definition of abandonment will not have a significant effect on the operations of the Department of Children's Services (DCS).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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